THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, October 13, 1806.

FURTHER ACCOUNT *of* PARAGUAY, *or* LA PLATA.

PARAGUAY is situated between 12° and 37° south latitude, and 50° and 75° west longitude; its length is one thousand five hundred miles, and its breadth one thousand. It is bounded on the north, by Amazonia; on the east, by Brasil; on the south, by Patagonia; and on the west, by Chili and Peru.

It is divided into six provinces, viz. Paraguay, Parana, Guaira, Uragua, Tucuman, and Rio de la Plata.

This country, besides an infinite number of small rivers, is watered by three principal ones, the Paragua, Uragua, and Parana, which, united near the sea, form the famous Rio de la Plata, or Plate river, and which annually overflow their banks; and on their recess, leave them enriched with a slime, that produces the greatest plenty of whatever is committed to it.

The grand river La Plata deserves a particular description. A Modenese Jesuit, by the name of P. Cattanco, who sailed up this river, speaks in the following language concerning it: "While I resided in Europe, and read in books of history or geography that the river de la Plata was one hundred and fifty miles in breadth, I considered it as an exaggeration, because in this hemisphere we have no example of such vast rivers. When I approached its mouth, I had the most vehement desire to ascertain the breadth with my own eyes, and I have found the matter to be exactly as it was represented. This I deduce particularly from one circumstance: when we took our departure from Monte Viedo, a fort situated more than one hundred miles from the mouth of the river, and where its breadth is considerably diminished, we sailed a complete day before we discovered

the land on the opposite side the river; and when we were in the middle of the channel, we could not discover land on either side, and saw nothing but the sky and water, as if we had been in some great ocean. Indeed, we should have taken it to be sea, if the fresh water of the river, which was turbid like the Po, had not satisfied us that it was a river."

This vast tract is far from being wholly subdued or planted by the Spaniards. There many parts in a great degree unknown to them, or to any other people in Europe. The principal province of which we have any knowledge, is that which is called Rio de la Plata, towards the mouth of the above-mentioned rivers. This province, with all the adjacent parts, is one continued plain for several hundred miles, extremely fertile, and produces cotton in great quantities; tobacco, and the valuable herb called paraguay, with a variety of fruits, and the prodigious rich pastures, in which are bred such herds of cattle, that it is said the hides of the beasts are all that is properly bought, the carcase being in a manner given into the bargain. A horse some time ago might be bought for a dollar, and the usual price of a bullock, chosen out of a herd of two or three hundred, was only four rials. But contrary to the general nature of America, this country is destitute of woods. The air is remarkably sweet and serene, and the waters of La Plata are equally pure and wholesome.

The Spaniards first discovered this country by sailing up the river La Plata in 1515, and founded the town of Buenos Ayres, so called on account of the excellence of the air, on the south side of the river, fifty leagues within its mouth, where it is seven leagues broad. This is one of the most considerable towns in South America, the capital of this country, and the only place of traffic to the south of Brasil. Here we meet with the merchants of Europe and Peru, but no regular fleet comes hither, as to the other parts of South America; two, or at most three register ships make the whole of their regular intercourse with Europe; their returns are very valuable, consisting chiefly of the gold and silver of Chili and Peru, sugar and hides. Those who have carried on a contraband trade to this city, have found it more advantageous than any other. The benefit of this contraband is now wholly in the hands of the Portuguese, who keep magazines for that purpose in such parts of Brasil as lie near this country.

Buenos Ayres is regularly built, its streets are wide, the houses are extremely low, and each of them is accommodated with a garden. The public and private buildings which, sixty years ago, were all made of earth, are of more solid and commodious construction, since the natives have learned the art of making brick and lime. The number of inhabitants is about thirty thousand. One side of the town is defended by a fortress, with

with a garrison of six or seven hundred men; the ships get to it by sailing up a river that wants depth, is full of islands, shoals, and rocks, and where storms are more frequent and more dreadful than on the ocean. It is necessary to anchor every night on the spot where they come to, and on the most moderate days a pilot must go to sound the way for the ship; after having surmounted these difficulties, the ships are obliged, at the distance of three leagues from the town, to put their goods on board some light vessel, and to go to refit, and to wait for their cargoes at Incunado de Barraghan, situated seven or eight leagues below.

Paragua sends annually into the kingdom of Peru as many as one thousand five hundred, or two thousand mules. They travel over dreary deserts for the distance of eight or nine hundred leagues. What is not man capable of doing, when necessity, resolution, and avarice are united? neither deep and miry swamps, nor summits of lofty mountains, covered with eternal snow, can bar his progress. The province of Tucuman furnishes annually, sixteen or eighteen thousand oxen, and four or five thousand horses, brought forth and reared upon its own territory. Paragua sends several articles of commerce to Spain, but they are all brought from neighbouring districts. The only article it furnishes from its own territory is hides; all these are sent to Europe from Buenos Ayres.

We cannot quit this country without mentioning that extraordinary species of commonwealth which the Jesuits erected in the interior parts, and concerning which these crafty priests have endeavoured to keep strangers in the dark.

About the middle of the last century, those fathers represented to the court of Spain, that the want of success in their missions was owing to the scandal which the immorality of the Spaniards never failed to give, and to the hatred which their insolent behaviour caused in the Indians. They insinuated that were it not for those obstacles, the empire of the gospel might, by their labours, have been extended into the most unknown parts of America; and that all those countries might be subdued to his catholic majesty's obedience, without expence, and without force. This remonstrance met with success; the sphere of their labours was marked out, and the governors of the adjacent provinces had orders not to interfere, nor to suffer any Spaniards to enter into this pale, without licences from the fathers; they, on their part, agreed to pay a certain capitation tax, in proportion to their flock, and to send a certain number to the king's works whenever they shall be demanded, and the missions should become populous enough to supply them.

On these terms these Jesuits gladly entered upon the scene of action, and opened their spiritual campaign. They began

by gathering together about fifty wandering families, whom they persuaded to settle, and they united them into a little township. This was the slight foundation upon which they built a superstructure which amazed the world, and added much to their power, at the same time that it occasioned much envy against their society. For when they had made this beginning, they laboured with such indefatigable pains, and such masterly policy, that by degrees they mollified the minds of the most savage nations, fixed the most rambling, and subdued those to their government who had long disdained to submit to the arms of the Spaniards and Portuguese. They prevailed upon thousands of various dispersed tribes to embrace their religion, and these soon induced others to follow their example, magnifying the peace and tranquillity they enjoyed under the direction of the fathers.

Our limits do not permit us to trace with precision all the steps which were taken in the accomplishment of so extraordinary a conquest over the bodies and minds of men. The Jesuits left nothing undone that could confirm their subjection, or that could increase their number; and it is said that above three hundred and forty thousand families lived in obedience, and expressed an awe, bordering upon adoration, yet procured without any violence or constraint; that the Indians were instructed in the military art, and could raise sixty thousand men well armed; that they lived in towns, were regularly clad, laboured in agriculture, exercised manufactures, some even aspired to the elegant arts, and that nothing could equal their submission to authority, except their contentment under it. Some writers have treated the character of these Jesuits with great severity, accusing them of ambition, pride, and of carrying their authority to such an excess, as to cause not only persons of both sexes, but even the magistrates, who were always chosen from among the Indians, to be corrected before them with stripes, and by suffering persons of the highest distinction, within their jurisdictions, to kiss the hem of their garments as the greatest honour. The priests themselves possessed large property, all manufactures were their's, the natural produce of the country were brought to them, and the treasures annually remitted to the superior of the order, seemed to evince that zeal for religion was not the only motive for forming these missions. The fathers would not permit any of the inhabitants of Peru, whether Spaniards, Mestizos, or even Indians, to come within their missions in Paraguay. In the year 1757, when part of this territory was ceded by Spain to the crown of Portugal, in exchange for Saint Sacrament, to make the Uragua the boundary of their possessions, the Jesuits refused to comply with this division, or to suffer themselves to be transferred from one hand to another, like cattle, without their own

consent.

consent. We were informed by the Spanish gazette, that the Indians actually took up arms; but, notwithstanding the exactness of their discipline, they were easily, and with considerable slaughter, defeated by the European troops who were sent to quell them; and in 1767, the Jesuits were removed from America, by royal authority, and their late subjects were put upon the same footing with the rest of the inhabitants of the country.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

OCCASIONAL ESSAYS.

No. I.

MR. EDITOR,

AS patch-work is now all the *rage* among the female sex, one would not wish, you know, to be out of the fashion; I therefore mean to send you a few patterns, which may be selected, and formed into robes as occasion suits; and though the manufacture may be found greatly inferior to other ingenious manufactures of the age, yet the work is truly British, and I look on that as no small *honour*.

It has been frequently said, that woman is a creature naturally gifted with a surprising volubility of tongue; your readers then will, of course, pardon a foible in common with my sex, if I should be found, I don't mean talking, but writing, at times, a *little too much*. It has been said too, that we are never more happy, than when the flippant attacks of this darling instrument, whip you, our *lordly masters!* fairly out of the field, which is a common case; for with all your solidity and judgment, what cannot female wits, together with a pair of bewitching eyes, accomplish? What! only transport you out of your senses, or any other little, foolish frolic, the dear enchantress, in her infinite whim and pleasantry, shall think fit to divert herself with.

Was not Madam Pallas, Minerva, the blue eyed maid, or whatever the poets please to fancy her, a goddess? Ay, and the goddess of wisdom too; consequently wisdom belongs to the female sex. The men, indeed, may argue, in support of their own dignity and consequence, that although wisdom be of the female sex, yet she first resided in a *male* brain, Jupiter's; but then every school boy knows, that wisdom jumpt out of Jupiter's head, crampt in her situation there, and I defy the wisest man living to prove, that she ever *jumpt back again*. As to our little jealousies, animosities, tattlings, bickerings, whims, caprices, and the like, they only serve to amuse the men, or rather

ther those *non entities* the *beaus*; for unless we found these butterflies of the day, food for conversation, the sweetly essenced *Jacky-daisies*, could find nothing to talk about.

It has been said too, that there is no correcting the natural disposition; but if nature cannot be wholly corrected, she need not be so strangely, at times, perverted. How many vices and irregularities have been attributed to nature, she never occasioned? Bad examples and bad customs take from her the power of action, and nature is blamed because vice impedes her progress. This is deemed by some knowledge of the world, a knowledge "more honoured in the breach than the observance." If a man, for instance, loses a law-suit, commenced, perhaps, from the mere spirit of litigation, and where justice has no claim, should the noblest and justest institution in the world be torn to pieces without mercy, or respectable professors aspersed wrongfully, to gratify private pique or ambition? Can reason suppose, for a moment, that a venerable judge, whose whole life has been devoted to fatigue and study, for the good of his country and mankind, would seat himself at the grand tribunal of a court of law, *intentionally* to commit injustice?

On the decision of twelve upright men, the subject's life and property are secure; neither trick, nor chicanary can root up, nor undermine that firm basis and bulwark of our safeties, invested in an impannelled and impartial British jury! whose unbiassed verdicts in our courts of justice and of law, loudly claim the applause of a whole people, the world at large, and stamp everlasting honour on a glorious nation and humanity! Let us learn that great and most essential lesson to correct *ourselves*, and nature so far from checking the noble work, will impress on it a polish bright and durable. Let us too, search after the *good* deeds of mankind, with the same avidity as we are prone to promulgate and enlarge on the bad ones, and we shall find the whole world is not to be condemned, because it produces a few bad examples. Such should be avoided; and with your leave, Mr. Editor, I shall endeavour to point out in this and a few subsequent numbers, some exceptions offensive to morality, and injurious to society, hoping the rod of correction will, at some future period, be uplifted by an abler hand.

The first vice I shall notice (for a vice it is in the fullest sense of the word) is the pernicious one of gaming. Begat by avarice, suckled by ignorance, and ripened to maturity by villainy, fraud, and rapine. And yet dare I assert, that a gamester professed is not a man of honour? How can it be doubted when the word is continually in his mouth? If suspicions arise of foul play—"Upon my honour, Sir, you are mistaken; I am a man of honour, and stake my money fairly; you have

wounded my honour, and demand the satisfaction of a *gentleman*."

In short, he will beggar you with honour, whip you through the lungs with honour, and do every thing with honour, but *play upon honour*; and there the *ready rhino* must be deposited.

Billiards, cards, and dice have hitherto kept their sway; but, (till the interference of magistracy) met with a very powerful rival in most polite cities. And still more powerful in its effects than could be wished.

This instrument of destruction was called an E. O. table. Two letters, thus appropriated, of more fatal consequence in life than all the alphabet put together, or all the figures in arithmetic to boot. It is well known, that by an industrious and proper use of figures, men of low birth have been raised to opulence: and by a selection of the two letters E. O. abstracted from the rest of the alphabet, have raised others to a very *exalted* station, by paving the way to deeds of great renown, ending on a gibbet. But this has never been the case with a man of *modern* honour; a loaded pistol is with him the *fashionable* resource; particularly if he has an amiable wife, and lovely offspring, suffering victims of his folly; for the tear of ruined innocence no man of sensibility can have fortitude enough to support.

A printer, who had acquired a capital fortune by industry in trade for thirty years together, becoming suddenly enamoured of the two letters E. O. declared he had the honour of losing more money by them in one night, than he had gained in his whole life time by all the twenty-four! What a noble and useful institution! where fortunes so hardly gained, may be so easily thrown away! Some, indeed, have endeavoured to make an improvement on the game, by the introduction of two other letters, namely I. and U. They play with them all occasionally, and when E. O. deny their usual influence, they hastily discard E. and, in conjunction with the other letters, play a fashionable game called I. O. U. This the gamester term *vowelling* of you. Indeed most of the votaries to the glorious game of E. O. became, in time, adepts in that of I. O. U. But the opposite parties seldom agree with regard to the latter; for, however fashionable the game of I. O. U. might be in itself, yet, contrary to all other games, the winner is said to play a losing stake.

As E. O. rivalled other games, so the spirit of retaliation now gives two potent rivals to E. O. The one figures it away under the dignified and majestic title of faro. The other simply rouge and noir "*Messieurs fait le jeue?*" Rouge and noir, alias *red* and *black*. A *title* not unaptly expressive. That the introducers of this game, were a set of foreign *black* legs, and

all

all who encourage its progress among us, ought to *blush* at their conduct in being seen in the company.

The vibration of a sharp and a flat, striking in unison, yields exquisite harmony; but what sort of harmony must that music produce, where (to use an Irishcism) the sharps are all flats? for each contends for the *golden fleece*. But however the scenes of such play houses may be openly crowded, be assured the true gamesters are only to be found *behind the curtain*. There the sharps, like Jason, win the golden fleece, and the flats are *all taken in*.

In these games I have endeavoured to point out the primitive cause of gaming in general, together with its pernicious and destructive effects; the moral of which holds in full force with all other species of gaming, where cards and dice are further regarded than for amusement, and to cement good company; and even then, rational conversation should have the preference, where brilliancy of wit, and refined sentiment unite: but as these gems are too rare to be always met with, cards are an excellent auxiliary to be called in to explode folly, noise, and nonsense, and prevent that brutal practice of drinking to excess—observations on which will be given in the next number.

NICOLAS PEDROSA.

By RICHARD CUMBERLAND, *Esq.*

NICOLAS PEDROSA, a busy little being, who followed the trades of shaver, surgeon, and man-midwife, in the town of Madrid, mounted his mule at the door of his shop in the Plazuela de los Affligidos, and pushed through the gate of San Bernardino, being called to a patient in the neighbouring village of Foncarral on a pressing occasion. Every body knows that the ladies in Spain, in certain cases, do not give long warning to practitioners of a certain description, and nobody knew it better than Nicolas, who was resolved not to lose an inch of his way, nor of his mule's best speed by the way, if cudgelling could beat it out of her. It was plain to Nicolas's conviction as plain could be, that his road laid strait forward to the little convent in front; the mule was of opinion, that the turning on the left down the hill towards the Prado was the road of all roads most familiar and agreeable to herself, and accordingly began to dispute the point of topography with Nicolas by fixing her fore feet resolutely in the ground, dipping her head at the same time between them, and launching heels and crupper furiously into the air, in the way of argument.

Little

Little Pedrosa, who was armed at heel with one massy silver spur, of stout, though ancient workmanship, resolutely applied the rusty rowel to the shoulder of his beast, and at the same time, adroitly tucking his blue cloth capa under his right arm, and flinging the skirt over the left shoulder *en cavalier*, began to lay about him with a stout ashen sapling, upon the ears, pole, and cheeks of the recreant mule. The fire now flashed from a pair of Andalusian eyes, as black as charcoal, and not less inflammable, and taking the segara from his mouth, with which he had vainly hoped to have regaled his nostrils in a sharp winter's evening by the way, raised such a thundering troop of angels, saints, and martyrs, from St. Michael downwards, not forgetting his own namesake Saint Nicolas de Tolentino by the way, that if curses could have made the mule to go, the dispute would have been soon ended, but not a saint could make her stir any other ways than upwards and downwards at a stand. A small troop of mendicant friars were at this moment conducting the host to a dying man. "Nicolas Pedrosa," said an old friar, "be patient with your beast, and spare your blasphemies; remember Balaam." "Ah father," replied Pedrosa, "Balaam cudgelled his beast 'till she spoke, so will I mine 'till she roars." "Fie, fie, prophane fellow!" cried another of the fraternity. "Go about your work, friend," quoth Nicolas, "and let me go about mine; I warrant it is the more pressing of the two; your patient is going out of the world, mine is coming into it." "Hear him," cried a third, "hear the vile wretch, how he blasphemes the body of God!" And then the troop passed slowly on to the tinkling of the bell.

A man must know nothing of a mule's ears, who does not know what a passion they have for the tinkling of a bell, and no sooner had the jingling chords vibrated in the sympathetic organs of Pedrosa's beast, then bolting forward with a sudden spring, she ran roaring into the throng of friars, trampling on some and shouldering others at a most prophane rate; when Nicolas availing himself of the impetus, and perhaps not able to controul it, broke away, and was out of sight in a moment. "All the devils in hell blow fire into thy tail, thou beast of Babylon," muttered Nicolas to himself, as he scampered along, never once looking behind him, or stopping to apologize for the mischief he had done to the bare feet and shirtless ribs of the holy brotherhood.

Whether Nicolas saved his distance, as likewise, if he did, whether it was a male or female Castalian he ushered into the world, we shall not just now enquire, contented to await his return in the first of the morning next day, when he had no sooner dismounted at his shop, and delivered his mule to a sturdy Arragonese wench, when Don Ignacia de Sontos Aparicia, alguazil mayor of the supreme and general inquisition, put an

order into his hand, signed and sealed by the inquisidor-general, for the conveyance of his body to the Casa, whose formidable door presents itself in the street adjoining to the square, in which Nicolas's brazen basin hung forth the emblem of his trade.

The poor little fellow, trembling in every joint, and with a face as yellow as saffron, dropt a knee to the altar, which fronts the entrance, and crossed himself most devoutly; as soon as he had ascended the first flight of stairs, a porter habited in black opened the tremendous barricade, and Nicolas with horror heard the grating of the heavy bolts which shut him in. He was led through passages and vaults and melancholy cells, 'till he was delivered into the dungeon, where he was finally left to his solitary meditations. Hapless being! what a scene of horror.

Nicolas felt all the terrors of his condition, but being an Andalusian, and like his countrymen, of a lively imagination, he began to turn over all the resources of his invention for some happy fetch, if any such might occur, for helping him out of the dismal limbo he was in: he had not long to seek for the cause of his misfortune; his adventure with the barefooted friars was a ready solution of all difficulties of that nature, had there been any: there was however another thing, which might have troubled a stouter heart than Nicolas's, he was a Jew. This of a certain would have been a straggering item in a poor devil's confession, but then it was a secret to all the world but to Nicolas, and Nicolas's conscience did not just then urge him to reveal it: he then began to overhaul the inventory of his personals about him, and with some satisfaction counted three little medals of the blessed virgin, two Agnus Deis, a Saint Nicolas de Tolentino, and a formidable string of beads all pendent from his neck and within his shirt; in his pockets he had a paper of dried figs, a small bundle of segaras, a case of lancets, squirt and forceps, and two old razors in a leathern envelope; these he had delivered one by one to the alguazil, who first arrested him, "and let him make the most of them," said he to himself, "they can never prove me an Israelite by a case of razors."

On a closer rummage, however, he discovered in a secret pocket a letter, which the alguazil had overlooked, and which his patient Donna Leonora de Casafodda had given him in charge to deliver as directed. "Well, well," cried he, "let it pass; there can be no mystery in this harmless scrawl; a letter of advice to some friend or relation; I'll not break the seal; let the fathers read it if they like, 'twill prove the truth of my deposition, and help out my excuse for the hurry of my errand, and the unfortunate adventure of my damned refractory mule."

And

And now no sooner had the recollection of the wayward mule crossed the brain of poor Nicolas Pedrosa, than he began to blast her at a furious rate—" The scratches and the scab to boot confound thy scurvy hide," quoth he, " thou ass-begotten bastard, whom Noah never let into his ark! The vengeance take thee, for an uncreated barren beast of promiscuous generation! What devil's crotchet got into thy capricious noddle, that thou shouldst fall in love with that Nazaritish bell, and run bellowing like Lucifer into the midst of those barefooted vermin, who are more malicious and more greedy than the locusts of Egypt? Oh! that I had the art of Simon Magus to conjure thee into this dungeon in my stead; but I warrant thou art chewing thy barley straw without any pity for thy wretched master, whom thy jade's tricks have delivered bodily to the tormentors, to be the sport of these uncircumcised sons of Dagon." And now the cell door opened, when a savage figure entered, carrying a huge parcel of clanking fetters, with a collar of iron, which he put round the neck of poor Pedrosa, telling him with a truly diabolic grin, whilst he was rivetting it on, that it was a proper cravat for the throat of a blasphemer.

" Jesu-Maria," quoth Pedrosa, " is all this fallen upon me for only cudgelling a restive mule?" " Ay," cried the demon, " and this is only a taste of what is to come," at the same time slipping his pincers from the screw he was forcing to the head, he caught a piece of flesh in the forceps, and wrenched it out of his cheek, laughing at poor Nicolas, whilst he roared aloud with the pain, telling him it was a just reward for the torture he had put him to a while ago, when he tugged at a tooth 'till he broke it in his jaw." " Ah, for the love of Heaven," cried Pedrosa, " have more pity on me; for the sake of Saint Nicolas de Tolentino, my holy patron, be not so unmerciful to a poor barber-surgeon, and I will shave your worship's beard for nothing as long as I have life."

(To be continued.)

ANECDOTES *of* SIR SAMUEL HOOD.

SIR SAMUEL HOOD, K. B. who has so greatly distinguished himself on various occasions, is the son of the late Rev. Mr. Hood, who resided near Somerton, in Somersetshire, and nephew of the Lords Viscount Hood and Bridport, to the latter of whom he is the supposed heir.

This active officer was commander of the Juno frigate, at the period of the evacuation of Toulon, previous to which event he had sailed on a cruize. On his return, ignorant of what had happened in his absence, he sailed into the harbour, and came

to an anchor. The evening was hazy, with heavy rain; no colours were displayed on the batteries, or if there were, they were either not visible, or English. A boat came alongside the Juno, and several Frenchmen, of the new municipality, went on board, They asked for news, and perceiving the mistake that still reigned, they conversed with Captain Hood as if they were under the British government. Fortunately, the tricoloured cockade in one of their hats caught his eye, and he perceived the treacherous tendency of their visit. With great presence of mind, he ordered some refreshments to be set before them, went on deck, and communicated to the officers and crew the situation of the ship, directing them to slip the cable, and make every possible exertion to sail out of the harbour. This he effected, in defiance of a heavy cannonade from the fort and batteries as he passed, and soon after joined the fleet under the command of Lord Hood.

Previous to the attack on the French line in the bay of Aboukir, the admiral hailed Captain Hood, to inquire, if he thought there was sufficient depth of water for our ships, between the enemy and the shore? Captain Hood said he did not know, but, with the admiral's permission, he would lead in, and try. The Goliath, however, being the fastest sailer, and having the start, first gained the post of honour.

The Zealous, of 74 guns, Captain Hood, had the honour of being the second ship that led inside between the enemy and the land, and to receive, with the Goliath, the first fire from the van ships of the enemy, as well as from the batteries and gunboats, with which their van was strengthened; these two ships, with the Orion, Audacious, and Theseus, took their stations inside the enemy's line, and were immediately in close action. At the close of the battle, Le Genereux, and Guillaume Tell, with the two frigates, Le Justice and La Diane, cut their cables, and stood out to sea, pursued by the Zealous, Captain Hood, who handsomely endeavoured to prevent their escape; but, as there was no other ship in a condition to support the Zealous, she was recalled.

On the 18th of August, having refitted the ships of his fleet and prizes, in the best manner the stores which he had would permit, the admiral sailed from the bay of Aboukir, leaving Captain Samuel Hood, with four sail of the line and two frigates, to block up the port of Alexandria, and to intercept any supplies which might be sent to the French army.

Captain Hood was next engaged in co-operating in the expulsion of the French from the Roman territory, and in 1801 commanded the Venerable, one of the ships of the squadron under Sir James Saumarez. In the engagement of Algesiras; he particularly distinguished himself, by pursuing and bringing to action the Formidable, a French ship of 84 guns, which he had

had nearly silenced, when his main mast was shot away. This accident enabled his antagonist to escape. "The highest praise, (says Sir James Saumarez, in his letter to the admiralty on this occasion) is due to Captain Hood, the officers and men of the Venerable for their spirit and gallantry in the action, which entitled them to better success.

On the renewal of hostilities, in 1803, Captain Hood was appointed commander in chief on the Leeward Island station, with the rank of commodore, and was employed, in conjunction with General Grinfield, in the reduction of the Dutch colonies of Berbice, Demerara, and Issequibo. For his services in the Mediterranean, he was honoured, by the king of the Two Sicilies, with the order of St. Ferdinand and of merit; and in 1804, he was invested, by his own sovereign, with the order of the bath.

On MOTTOES.

To the EDITOR of the MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

AN allusion having been lately made in the house of peers to the motto assumed by Lord Erskine, *trial by jury*, permit me to trouble you with a few observations on mottoes in general.

They are of various descriptions. Some, of a milk-and-water sort, may be used indiscriminately by all persons, and in all situations; for, as they have no allusion whatever to the individual or family by whom they are borne, they can never be materially wrong.

Many allude to a meritorious action in the life of the original adopter, as that of Lord Erskine above quoted, which, while it recognizes the great bulwark of our liberties, will be a proud record to his posterity of this constitutional lawyer's noble maintenance of the rights of juries; whereas it would have been altogether misappropriate had he displayed on the Lord chancellor's coach his original motto, *judge not!* Lord Nelson's motto, *palmam qui meruit ferat*, (let him who has deserved it wear the palm,) will ever remain an honourable record of this hero's patriot virtue, and a powerful stimulant to his successors to emulate his glory.

Some, like the Delphic oracles, may be interpreted in a double sense. Thus *sola nobilitas virtus*, (virtue is the sole nobility,) may be translated with equal accuracy, nobility is his sole virtue.— Again, *labor ipse voluptas*, (labour itself is a pleasure,) however applicable to its first holder, may, to an effemi-

nate

nate lordling who comes after him, be explained, pleasure itself is a labour.

Several, by a trifling alteration, may be totally perverted; as *non sibi, sed patriæ,* (not for himself, but his country,) aptly applied to the great and lamented William Pitt, may, by an obvious transposition, be twisted into *non patriæ, sed sibi,* (not for his country, but himself!)

Some are mere quibbles on the holder's name: as Lord Onslow's, *festina lente,* (on slow;)—Mr. Rose's, *floreat rosa,* (may the rose flourish!)—and Lord Temple's motto, from the Psalms, *templa quam dilecta!* (how delightful are thy temples!) which may be easily travestied into, what a precious set are the Temples!—A subordinate motto of Lord Nelson comes under this description, *fit honos a Nilo,* (honour springs from the Nile,) but which is a *concetto,* signifying also, honour springs from nothing.—Lastly, to this class may be assigned Mr. Alexander Trotter's, *Deel speed the hindmost!* under the crest of a *trotting-horse!*

In the assumption of mottoes, the founders of families should avoid the above rock, as well as of taking those of which their heirs may prove unworthy. Thus it would ill become the puny offspring of a heroic ancestor to carry, *non generant aquilæ columbas,* (eagles do not generate doves;)—a coward, *animo forti,* (with a courageous spirit;)—an infidel, *en Dieu est ma fiance,* (in God is my trust;)—or the minion of a corrupt court, *pro libertate et magna charta,* (for liberty and the great charter.)

As it frequently happens that men risen from an humble station to wealth and a carriage, are at a loss for suitable mottoes, I shall, for the accommodation of such gentlemen, mention a few, which may be applicable to different professions or situations in life.

For a lawyer, *causes produce effects;* or, *the glorious uncertainty of the law!*—a tailor, *men and measures;*—a shoemaker, *sutor ultra crepidam,* (the shoemaker beyond his last;)—a distiller, *the spirit moveth me;*—a slave-trader, *black boys get yellow boys;*—an East-India nabob, *currit ad Indos, pauperiem fugiens,* (he runs to the Indies to flee poverty;)—a commissary, *the king's chaff is better than other men's corn;*—a bankrupt, *vix ea nostra voco,* (I can scarcely call these my own;)—a coal-merchant, *I have touched the cole;*—a card-maker, *my cards have turned up trumps;*—a parson, *spero meliora,* (I hope for preferment;)—a sub-dignitary of the church, *nolo episcopari,* (I won't be a bishop) *invitum sequitor honos,* (honours flow on me against my will;)—an archbishop, *completum est,* (it is accomplished;)—an undertaker, *mors est mihi lucrum,* (death is to me great gain.)

I shall conclude this chapter of mottoes with two short anecdotes. A tobacconist having set up his chariot, was advised, by way of anticipating the jeers of his neighbours, to take for a motto, *quid rides?* (why do you laugh?) Two sailors passing it, who had bought many a *quid* at the old gentleman's shop, the one asked his companion the meaning of this motto? "Why you fool, (answered Jack,) can't you read? It is plain English, *quid rides.*'

A poor Scotchman having been worsted in a law-suit he had brought before the court of session against his rich landlord, as he was coming out of the parliament house observed the city of Edinburgh's arms then inscribed over the gate, *nisi Dominus frustra,* (without the Lord it is in vain,) shook his head, and said, "Very true; *unless you be a laird it is in vain to come here.*"

I am, &c.

GENEOLOGUS.

Friendly Behaviour of the Emperor of Russia to the English Merchants.

IT cannot but be a subject of proud exultation to contemplate the very marked and distinguished manner in which his majesty the emperor of Russia has recently thought proper to honour the British merchants resident at and trading to Petersburgh. The occasion upon which his imperial majesty was pleased to compliment them in the way he did, was one which materially related to the commercial interests of that extensive empire. It was nothing less than laying the foundation stone of a new exchange. The emperor attended the ceremony, and every English merchant in the place was invited. The merchants of other nations were not so favoured. The invitation to them was neither general, or accompanied with those circumstances of respect and esteem which were manifested with regard to our countrymen. The first stone of the projected structure was laid with due solemnity; the current coins of Russia were deposited beneath the stone, and, during the whole of the scene, full bands of military music attended, by command of the emperor, and played a number of the matchless compositions of Mozart.

When this grand ceremony had concluded, his majesty requested the attendance of our merchants at a splendid entertainment he proposed giving upon so auspicious an event. The imperial summons was obeyed, and a more interesting spectacle was never beheld. The emperor presided in person, and condescended to perform the honours of the feast. He deported

himself with the most easy and familiar conviviality. Nothing was omitted that could impart delight and gratification.

The table was spread with every delicacy, that could be procured, and the choicest wines added to the luxuriance of the royal treat. The desert was rendered, by a circumstance which accompanied it, even more agreeable than the dinner; for after numerous toasts had gone round, and success had been drank to the new undertaking, his majesty unfolded a packet, containing a quantity of gold medals, each of the value of about six guineas in weight, but inestimable in another point of view—on the one side was the bust of the emperor, a striking and accurate likeness, and on the reverse was the elevation of the imperial exchange, precisely as it was intended to be erected. His majesty presented one with his own hand to every British merchant, at the same time desiring them to preserve it as a memorial of his respect for the first commercial nation in the world, and as an indication of that strict friendship he always wished to manifest towards England. The prosperity of the emperor's reign—the harmony of the alliance between England and Russia were drank, with various other appropriate toasts.

The festival was protracted 'till a late hour, and it would be difficult to say which experienced most satisfaction, the august and gallant monarch, or the merchants of our free country, who were so eminently honoured by his attention and preference.

HAMPSHIRE NATURALIST's REPORT,

For August and September.

IN the afternoon, evening, and night, of the 19th of August, we were visited by one of the most tremendous storms of thunder and lightning that I ever witnessed. It commenced about three o'clock; and, with some intermissions, continued for more than twelve hours. Much damage has been done by the lightning, in various places. In the night of Wednesday the 29th of August, we had another thunder-storm; but this was by no means so tremendous or awful as the former. It appears, however, to have extended a considerable way out at sea, where it must have been attended by a heavy gale of wind; for, on visiting the sea-beach, on the two following days, I found it entirely and thickly covered with weed or wrack.

Amongst this I picked up a bunch of the eggs of the officinal cuttle-fish, *sepia officinalis*, of Linnæus. In its general appearance it was much like a bunch of black grapes. The eggs

were each nearly spherical, about half an inch in diameter, and attached by a pedicle, with a kind of loop at its extremity, to the common stalk. The French seamen denominate these eggs, *raisins de mer*.

The basse, *perca labrax*, of Linnæus, have for some weeks been found on our shores, and in the mouths of our rivers and creeks. The large ones are now occasionally seen swimming about, in the shallow water, apparently for the purpose of rubbing themselves upon the gravel or pebbles. In this act their backs are sometimes above the water; and a stranger would suppose that they were floated in by the tide against their inclination: this, however, is certainly not the case. They have sometimes been shot whilst in this act, by persons standing on the cliffs or the high sand-banks of the shores.

The fishing for mackrel entirely ceased about the latter end of August. The green cod, *gadus virens*, are now occasionally caught in the salmon nets that are employed upon the sea shores. Sand launces, or wreckle, *ammodytes tobianus*, are dug out of the sands at low water of the spring tides, during the whole months of August and September.

The common snipes are to be seen in the marshy lands of various parts both of Dorsetshire and Hampshire, through the whole summer. In most other parts of Great Britain they are birds of passage, generally appearing about the month of November, and disappearing about the latter end of March, or early in April.

About the middle of September the swallows and martins begin to collect in great numbers about the towers of churches, evidently in preparation for their autumnal departure. I am inclined to think that the swifts, *hirundo apus*, have all disappeared from this part of the world, as none of them have been seen for some days.

On the 1st of September I observed, for the first time, that the linnets had begun to conjugate. The leaves of the lime trees about the latter end of August began to turn yellow and fall. The early defoliation of these trees has probably been occasioned by the late unusually dry weather.

On the 10th of August I remarked, for the first time, that the following plants, which grow on the sands of the sea-shore, were all in flower. The yellow-horned poppy, the sea bind weed, and the sea eryngo. The roots of the latter plant are of considerable value, both to the druggists and confectioners; yet, although they might be collected in considerable quantity on our shores, I have never observed any person employed in gathering them. The marsh mallow was first in flower about the middle of August, and the Michaelmas daisy about the latter end of the same month.

Answer, by J. A. Dyer, of Taunton, to T. Ratger's Rebus, inserted August 11.

IF I my mind must now declare,
The author that you mean is BLAIR.

‖‡‖ We have received the like answer from T. Clarke, and T. Scadding, of Wellington.

Answer, by J. Salter, of Broadhembury, to Sophia's Charade, inserted August 11.

REVERSE your first and second right,
A PATTEN then you'll have in sight.

‖‡‖ The like answers have been received from William Varcoe, of Mevagissey; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; P. Codd, and R. Gidley, of Dean Prior; J. Lewis, of Poole; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. T. Symons, J. S. H. Stoneman, and S. W. Wreford, of Exeter; J. Badcock, of Mousehole; W. Cross, and W D. of Bristol; W. Harrison, of Tiverton; J. Ryan, of East Stonehouse; and M. P. M. of Marazion.

Answer, by W. H of Tiverton, to R. Trewavas's Rebus, inserted August 11.

LIKE fishes by the NET entangled,
So fools are by their folly fangled.

†§† We have received the like answer from Henry Stoneman, J. T. Symons, J. S. and S. T. Wreford, of Exeter; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; John Woodman, jun. of North Curry; W. Cross, and W. D. of Bristol; T. Scadding, of Wellington; John Salter, of Broadhembury; Sophia, of Modbury; J. Ryan, and B Belcher, of East-Stonehouse; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; R. Gidley, Dean Prior; W. P M. of Marazion; T. Coumbe, of St. German's; and C. P. Ninnis, of Tavistock.

An ANAGRAM, *by Tyro, of Penzance.*

AN English town transpos'd aright,
A precious stone 'twill bring to sight.

A REBUS, *by J. Salter, of Broadhembury.*

A Jewish month, gents. first pray find;
A famous wrestler call to mind;
A king of Corinth next you'll view,
Whom famous Bellerophon slew;
A British king then make appear,
And last a town in Dorsetshire:
Th' initials will, when join'd aright,
Present a beast, Sirs, to your sight.

A CHARADE, *by T. Scadding, of Wellington.*

THE sea was calm, and all was hush'd,
No duty call'd each jovial tar,
With mirth and glee round went my first,
Each drank success unto the war;
A preposition pray next shew,
When added to my first, you'll see
The dread of each inveterate foe,
And Britain's guardian still shall be,

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

An Address, written and spoken by Mr. Robert Lampen, at the Grammar-School Meeting, in the Guildhall, Plymouth, August 26, 1806.

YE gen'rous patrons, who, with zeal sincere,
Advance the promise of each passing year,
Who, in our breasts, proud emulation raise,
And kindle ardour by the voice of praise;
'Tis your's, to gladden the expanding mind,
With larger views, with pleasures more refin'd;
To crown desert, and firm in learning's cause,
To bid her flourish by your kind applause.

Aspiring genius asks some fost'ring care,
As plants, a friendly soil, and genial air.
In vain the struggling growth attempts to rise,
Nipp'd by chill frost, or check'd by wintry skies;
By dews refresh'd, by gentle breezes fann'd,
It sheds its sweetness o'er the smiling land;
And kindly nurtur'd by the enliv'ning ray,
Unfolds its treasures to the glow of day.

Thus may success your lib'ral plan befriend,
And fav'ring wisdom ev'ry act attend;
Thus may each youth with gratitude repay
The annual care of this auspicious day!
And Lo! to hope's creative eye, appears
A pleasing prospect of succeeding years!
Youth rais'd by merit, and with ardour fir'd,
Reflecting virtues, by your zeal inspir'd.

Whate'er the aspect of my future fate,
Still watchful mem'ry will my breast elate,
Still with unceasing joy review the days
When first I gloried in your fav'ring praise:
And ever own, to grateful feeling true,
The worth of honours first conferr'd by you.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Prologue, written by Mrs. [illegible], and spoken by Mr. Hallam, at the Theatre at New York, in 1790.

WHEN first fair science spread her dazzling charms,
And Greece and Athens shone in arts and arms:
When heav'n-born poets tun'd the harmonious lyre,
And wit, refin'd, glow'd with seraphic fire;
The mind, expanding, caught the gen'rous flame,
Rous'd by the noblest passions—love and fame!

Hence the Thespian car whole numbers drew,
And crowds, enlighten'd, round the actor flew;
In mimic glass each passion, error, plac'd,
And, big with folly, satire's pencil trac'd;

Whilst

Whilst nature, aiding, form'd the mighty plan,
And, 'fore her mirror, plac'd that monster—man.
Each well-drawn feature struck the feeling breast,
And human error naked stood confess'd;
To bright the tints, so bold the painter drew,
That man, asham'd, stood trembling at the view;
Vice shrunk abash'd, and folly droop'd her head,
The fell contagion check'd, no longer spread;
Satire and mirth so happily were blended,
Not only minds improv'd, but hearts too, mended.
Manners thus polish'd by Athenian lore,
And learning pouring forth her boundless store
From ancient poets, moderns raise a name;
To copy them, and nature, is the same.
Fearing to stray, her genuine precepts quote,
(Her darling child) immortal Shakespeare wrote!
The laurel blooms too, round great Dryden's bier,
And Rowe and Otway draw the tender tear.

And now, in other clime the theme pursue,
A rising country opens to the view,
Where liberty, bright maid! in radiant charms,
Stands unappall'd. Each *federal* bosom warms!
The patriotic plan unites each state,
And forms a CONSTITUTION—nobly great
Aspiring genius! panting after praise,
And, like a dazzling meteor, wonder raise:
E'en foes commend, and hail the happy shore,
Children of light! blest science to explore.
Now early dawn, but soon in richest ray,
The clouds dispelling, blaze in open day;
In arts and arms, now budding, quickly bloom,
And fair Columbia rival Greece and Rome!

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ABSENCE.

A Few short months alone have pass'd
Since I beheld Lavinia last;
And yet the mournful time appears
Just like a length of lingering years.

When in her beauteous presence bless'd
My lips an artless flame confess'd;
As swift as thought the moments roll'd
'Till the soft tale of love was told.

And must I tell that tale no more?
And cease Lavinia to adore?
Mute may my lips for ever prove,
But never shall I cease to love.

Village-hill. EDWIN.

Lines, written by Dr. Delany, on seeing himself in a Glass.

WHEN I revolve this evanescent state,
How fleeting is its form, how short its date!
My life and being both dependent still
Not on my own, but on a higher will;
I ask myself, as I my image view,
"Which is the real *shadow* of the two?"